



DepED-8: It's all systems go for Palarong Pambansa

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Tacloban City – It's all systems go for next week's opening of this year's Palarong Pambansa with no less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo opening weeklong games and welcoming the more than 10,000 young athletes from all over the country.



All the billeting quarters of the athletes and their coaches were also provided with necessary amenities to include uninterrupted water and power supplies, assured Assistant Regional Director Alberto Escobarte of the Department of Education.

"Everything is set for next week's opening with President Arroyo in attendance," Escobarte said yesterday.

The Education Assistant Regional Director said that all the athletes from all the regions are already billeted at their respective quarters with the delegations from the powerhouse National Capital Region (NCR) among those to arrive yesterday early morning.

This year's Palarong Pambansa is being hosted by the Leyte Provincial Government in coordination with the DepED. Majority of the sports events are to be held at the newly-refurbished Leyte Sports Development Center (Grandstand), a Marcos-era built stadium.

The President is expected to arrive at the LSDC around 10 in the morning to formally open the weeklong sports spectacle, the first time to be held in Eastern Visayas in 26 years.

The President is to be welcomed by Governor Carlos Jericho Petilla, Education Secretary Jesli A. Lapus and all governors, congressmen, mayors and education officials in the region led by Director Sol Matugas, Escobarte said.

Senators Mar Roxas, Loren Legarda and Richard Gordon, all presidential candidates, have also confirmed their attendance for the Palarong Pambansa.

Escobarte said that all the billeting quarters for the athletes are now provided with necessary facilities like water and power. "Policemen both from the city and the province are also providing security to all billeting areas", the Education Assistant Regional Director said.

The provincial government with the assistance of the national government through the DepED spent over P 70 Million for the staging of the event which include the rehabilitation of the LSDC.

While majority of the sports competition are to be held at the LSDC, other events like archery, sepak takraw, sipa and gymnastics are to be conducted in other venues, the Education Assistant Regional Director said.

Meantime, Escobarte said that the parade for the opening on Tuesday would start at the grounds of the Eastern Visayas State University (EVSU) en route to its adjacent LSDC, the main venue of the competition.

"The parade was shortened to give our young athletes more time to relax as various competitions will commence right away" Escobarte said.

"But during the closing ceremonies, there will be a parade starting from the oval of the Grandstand going all the way to the RTR Plaza" Escobarte said.

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